

## CLAIMS IN AN AMENDMENT

[Received November 11, 2004 by the International Bureau;  
claims 1-4 as filed have been amended;  
a new claim 5 has been added. (2 pages)]

5        1. (As amended) A directional control valve block comprising plural directional control valves in a valve main body, each of said directional control valves being provided with a slidable spool, a pair of actuator ports, a communication passage communicable to said actuator ports, a parallel passage 10 connecting said plural directional control valves in parallel with each other, a tandem passage connecting said plural directional control valves in series with each other, a first check valve for permitting a flow of pressure fluid from said parallel passage toward said communication passage and 15 preventing any flow of pressure fluid in an opposite direction, and a second check valve arranged coaxially with said first check valve for permitting a flow of pressure fluid from said tandem passage toward said communication passage and preventing any flow of pressure fluid in an opposite direction, characterized 20 in that:

one of said ~~first~~ check valve and said second check valve is slidably arranged in the other, a plug is arranged in threaded engagement with said valve main body such that an end portion of said first check valve and an end portion of said second check 25 valve are covered by said plug, and a spring is arranged between

at least one of said first check valve and second check valve and said plug such that said first check valve and said second check valve are biased in closing directions.

2. (As amended) A directional control valve block  
5 according to claim 1, wherein:

said first check valve is slidably arranged in said second check valve, and said second check valve is provided with a through-hole formed in communication with said communication passage.

10 3. (As amended) A directional control valve block  
according to claim 2, wherein:

said second check valve is internally provided with a seat portion with which said first check valve is normally maintained in contact.

15 4. (As amended) A directional control valve block  
according to claim 1, wherein:

said second check valve is slidably arranged in said first check valve.

5. (As amended) A directional control valve block  
20 according to claim 4, wherein:

a spring is arranged between said plug and said first check valve such that said first check valve is biased in a closing direction, a spring is arranged between said plug and said second check valve such that said second check valve is biased in a closing direction, and a seat portion is arranged in said parallel

passage such that said first check valve is normally maintained in contact with said seat portion.